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By: **Delegates Mitchell and Hutchins**  
Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2001  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure - Trial Dates**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain circuit courts to grant a change of the trial  
4 date in a criminal matter; and generally relating to trial dates for criminal  
5 matters in circuit court.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Criminal Procedure  
8 Section 6-103  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article - Criminal Procedure**

14 6-103.

15 (a) (1) The date for trial of a criminal matter in the circuit court shall be set  
16 within 30 days after the earlier of:

17 (i) the appearance of counsel; or

18 (ii) the first appearance of the defendant before the circuit court, as  
19 provided in the Maryland Rules.

20 (2) The trial date may not be later than 180 days after the earlier of  
21 those events.

22 (b) For good cause shown, the administrative judge of a county or a designee of  
23 the judge OR A JUDGE OF A CIRCUIT COURT THAT HAS FIVE OR FEWER OF ITS  
24 JUDGES RESIDING IN THE COUNTY THAT IT SERVES may grant a change of the trial  
25 date in a circuit court:

26 (1) on motion of a party; or

1           (2)       on the initiative of the circuit court.

2       (c)       The Court of Appeals may adopt additional rules to carry out this section.

3       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
4 effect October 1, 2001.